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## FOREWORD

In connection with Gokhale's Birth Centenary the Servants of India Society, Poona brought out, between 1966-68, a comprehensive collection of Gokhale's speeches and writings in three volumes dealing with the Political, Economical and Educational problems of his times. Subsequently while going through Gokhale's correspondence Mr. D. V. Ambekar, the Senior Member of the Servants of India Society, Poona, discovered a letter written by Dinshaw Wacha<sup>1</sup> to Dadhabhai Naoroji<sup>2</sup> in 1899 drawing the latter's attention to an article by Gokhale on "Indian Finance from 1879 to 1898" in the 'Madras Review' of May, 1899 edited by Karunakara Menon<sup>3</sup>. Wacha characterised this article as a 'capital one', in his letter to Dadabhai Naoroji. Mr. Ambekar therefore wrote to me asking me to secure for him a copy of the article published in the said 'Madras Review'. This article is from Volume three of the 'Madras Review' which is available in the Adyar Library. It is now published for the first time in a pamphlet form.

The administration of Sir James Westland, the Finance Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council from 1893-1899 was characterised by high taxation, lavish spendings and mounting public debt. He was unsympathetic to Indian aspirations, offensive and insulting in his manner and speech to Indian publicists and to members of the Governor General's Legislative Council. When laying down his office as Finance Minister, he claimed that the financial administration of the country under him as Finance Member was sound and satisfactory.

In this article, Gokhale effectively contested the claim of Sir James, with facts and figures, in clear and

dignified language and proved that the premises and conclusions of Sir James Westland were both **wrong** and misleading.

Even a lay reader who goes through this article will be impressed with the able manner in which Gokhale had marshalled his facts and figures and had pricked the bubble of Sir James Westland's empty boast.

This article, it is hoped will be read with profit and pleasure both, by students of public affairs and public Finance.

Servants of India Society,  
Madras-14.  
9-5-60

S. R. VENKATARAMAN,  
Secretary

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1. **Dinshaw Edulji Wacha** (1844-1936) Member, Bombay Municipal Corporation and its President (1901). Member Bombay Legislative Council, Secretary, Indian National Congress 1896-1911; President; Indian National Congress 1901; Member; Indian Legislative Council and Council of State. N. Delhi.
  2. **Dadhabhai Naoroji** : (1825-1917) : One of the Founders of the Indian National Congress. Thrice its President : 1886, 1893 and 1906. Founder The East Indian Association 1867. Dewan; Baroda State 1874; Member British House of Commons 1892, Member Welby Commission 1897; Author of *Poverty and Un-British Rule of India* 1901; *England's Duty to India* etc.
  3. **Karunakara Menon**, Editor of the Madras Review, was also on the Editorial Staff of the Hindu, a noted publicist from Kerala, settled in Madras.

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